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a secondary coil (6; 15; 25; 34; 35) magnetically coupled with said first and second primary coils (4; 13; 21; 32), (5; 14; 22; 33) for differentially coupling said data into and/or out of said first and second lines (1, 2);

wherein said first and second primary coils (4; 13; 21; 32), (5; 14; 22; 33) are formed in such a way that a current flowing through said power supply point (3; 23; 36) is divided into two equal currents flowing in said two lines (1, 2) of said network.

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated May 16, 2002. The Examiner asserts that U.S. Patent No. 5,789,959 ("the '959 patent") anticipates claims 1, 9 and 10 and renders obvious the remaining claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has overlooked an important distinction between the invention as presently claimed and the teachings of the '959 patent.

The Examiner asserts that the '959 patent discloses that "The two primary coils, 5A and 6A, and the secondary side of a core are magnetically coupled together." Applicants respectfully disagree. As clearly shown in Figure 1 of the '959 patent, the two primary coils, 5A and 6A are each coupled to a different coil. In the present invention as claimed, a single secondary coil magnetically coupled with both primary coils. The '959 patent arrangement does not show a single secondary coil coupled to both primary coils because each primary coil is coupled to a different secondary coil. (See Fig. 1 of '959 and accompanying disclosure.)

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the foregoing novel subject matter.

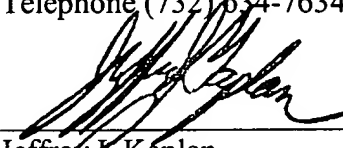
The remaining claims are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. The Examiner is authorized to deduct any additional fees believed due from Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATED: July 10, 2002



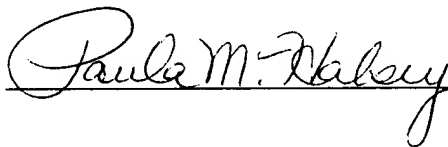
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on July 10, 2002.

Dated July 10, 2002

Signed



Print Name Paula M. Halsey



MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIM 1

1. (Twice Amended) A network coupler for network users in a network having a first line (1) and a second line (2) for transmitting both data and energy, comprising:
 - a first primary coil (4; 13; 21; 32) and a second primary coil (5; 14; 22; 33), each having a first terminal and a second terminal, with said first terminals coupled to said first and second lines (1, 2) respectively and said second terminals interconnected at a power supply point (3; 23; 36) for coupling said energy;
 - a secondary coil (6; 15; 25; 34; 35) magnetically coupled with said first and second primary coils (4; 13; 21; 32), (5; 14; 22; 33) for differentially coupling said data into and/or out of said first and second lines (1, 2);
 - wherein said first and second primary coils (4; 13; 21; 32), (5; 14; 22; 33) are formed in such a way that a current flowing through said power supply point (3; 23; 36) is divided into two equal currents flowing in said two lines (1, 2) of said network.

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